



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

North central Wisconsin has a long and rich history of being a destination for immigrants looking to pursue the American Dream. Indeed today, there is an increasing diversity similar to larger cities that include Southeast Asian and Latino folks. From Eau Claire to Stevens Point and Wausau to Ashland, immigrant workers help make for stronger communities and a critical part of the labor market in agriculture/dairy, manufacturing, service sector and small businesses.

Like many existing hard working American families, immigrant groups stand to benefit greatly from the Federal Affordable Care Act which expands the range and quality of health insurance plans. This initiative has had some speed bumps getting off the ground but already thousands of eligible people are noticing the positive changes which make Republicans like Scott Walker, Sean Duffy and Paul Ryan very uncomfortable. So much so that their allies with ties to the wealthiest Americans are pouring out-of-state, secret political donations into Wisconsin to launch efforts to distort the ACA and try to dissuade key ethnic groups from learning their options and enrolling in an affordable health plan.

Don't take my word for it. In a recent article, Paul Krugman, a New York Times columnist, reveals some of the dirt behind anti-ACA propaganda. His first example references a post-State of the Union commentary made by GOP Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers who alluded to a "Bette in Spokane" suffering from a \$700 increase in premiums per month. However, local reporters found the real Bette and discovered that the original policy that she "lost" provided minimal protection, and she was now receiving much better care for significantly less than Rep. Rodgers cited. Krugman's second example comes from Louisiana where a fake grass-roots group had been running ads criticizing Sen. Mary Landrieu. The scenes show Louisiana residents (who are in fact paid actors) finding out that their insurance policies have been canceled due to Obamacare. However, these scenes are not in any way re-enactments of real events and lack evidence.

Here in Wisconsin, the LIBRE Initiative is trying to scare our Latino population with misrepresentations and loaded rhetoric. Their national spokesperson is Rachel Campos Duffy, wife of the Congressman from the 7<sup>th</sup> District. The LIBRE rationale is that, despite offering no good alternatives themselves, if they cause enough people to hate Obamacare, they can somehow and cynically pick up the support of Latino voters. This is after years of halting progress on immigration reform, cutting taxes on the wealthiest, sitting idle while the nation's housing market went into tailspin, and blocking funds for Medicaid here in Wisconsin along with other key safety net programs that many Latino and other ethnic groups rely on during tough economic times.

Thanks to the ACA, 10.2 million uninsured Latinos have the opportunity to get health care coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. It is important to note that nearly one in three (30.7%) of people uninsured in the United States is Hispanic, per a 2012 report by the NCLR (National Council of La Raza). Because of ObamaCare, insurance companies can no longer discriminate against the 129 million Americans with pre-existing conditions...a huge plus for Latinos and their families.

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Under the ACA, over 1,100 community health centers, where one out of every three patients is Latino, will get additional funding to increase the number of patients they can serve.

Under ObamaCare, nearly one million young Latinos will have gained insurance through their parent's plans. 3.9 million Latinos with Medicare will be able to receive a free preventive service, including flu vaccinations, diabetes screenings, and an annual wellness visit with their primary care doctor.

Additionally, the 8.2 million Latinos who have private insurance have gained improved coverage for preventative services. Approximately 10.2 million Latinos no longer need to worry about going without treatment for cancer and other chronic diseases because of lifetime dollar limits that ObamaCare eliminates. With so many of these diseases, early detection is key so getting people into the doctor's office is a huge first step towards improving health outcomes for Latinos. The ACA opens the door for all Latinos to get access to these timely services.

Along with other non-Latinos, Hispanics enrolled in the Health Insurance exchanges are able to directly compare plans on the basis of price, benefits, quality and other important factors. 90% of people who are currently uninsured will qualify for discounted or free health insurance. All health insurance plans in the exchanges display their price and benefit information in plain and understandable language.

All health plans will cover the following services:

1. Preventive and wellness services as well as chronic disease management
2. Pediatric services including oral (dental) and vision care
3. Ambulatory patient services
4. Emergency services
5. Hospitalization
6. Maternity and newborn care
7. Mental health and substance use disorders
8. Prescription drugs
9. Rehabilitative services and devices
10. Laboratory services

Wisconsin taxpayers across all ethnic backgrounds and income levels have lost out on hundreds of millions of federal dollars designed to implement the exchange health plan marketplace and make sure Medicaid reforms are funded and working properly. This is a move that has not only huge economic losses to Wisconsin, it slows down getting proper access to the health care system for those who might not speak English or who have other barriers to health coverage.

Without question, the LIBRE attempt to sway Latinos against the Affordable Care Act is full of errors and seems desperately partisan vs. proposing sound alternatives to increase access and improve coverage for Latino families in Wisconsin.

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